

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES – OCTOBER 20, 2004

Chairman Chris Dollar called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

**Approval for Minutes from August 2004 Meeting**

- August minutes were approved without changes.

**Wildlife and Heritage Game Program Update**

- Presentation by Robert Beyer, Associate Director, Steve Bittner, Game Mammal Section Leader, and Bill Harvey, Game Bird Section Leader
- Associate Director, Bob Beyer handed out Wildlife and Heritage Service Game Program Organizational Chart [Attachment A].
- Mr. Beyer highlighted some current issues for the Wildlife and Heritage Service, Game Program.
  - 1) The results from Black Bear Hunt Hearing on Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. The judge stated that the Department of Natural Resources met all the standards, in fact, exceeded the required standards. In the end, the motion for a preliminary injunction was denied.
    - (a) Pre-Hunt Meetings were scheduled for October 23<sup>rd</sup> and October 24<sup>th</sup>.
    - (b) Staff went over safety rules and how to hunt bears, ethics, and bear biology.
  - 2) Captive Deer: captive deer are prohibited in Maryland without a permit. Biologists around the country are concerned about Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).
    - (a) In 1967, CWD appeared in captive raised deer in the State of Colorado; however, CWD was not identified as a disease for 10 years. CWD is a deadly disease and it is similar to Mad Cow disease. There are potential problems with captive raised deer. Since 1984, the state of Maryland has prohibited the use of new captive deer permits.
      - (i) Maryland has 26 legal deer farms, and these farms were grandfathered into the current system. They are monitored on regular basis by the Department's deer biologists. Once a captive raised deer dies, the permittee has to notify Wildlife and Heritage Service and the deer has to be tested by an approved laboratory.
        - a. Commissioner Lamp discussed with staff captive deer permittees vs. non-licensed deer kept in Maryland.
        - b. The permittees have to adhere to strict guidelines outlined by the Department and by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).
      - (ii) Hunter-harvested deer disease monitoring.
        - a. Beginning on October 21<sup>st</sup>, staff members will be stationed in all 23 counties; deer that are collected will be tested for CWD.
        - b. The ultimate goal for staff is to obtain 850 hunter-harvest deer samples across the State of Maryland.
    - (b) The situation that occurred in Pasadena could not be discussed in more detail. NRP representatives at the meeting were unable to comment. Currently, the case is under investigation by Natural Resource Police (NRP).
  - 3) The next course of action is an outreach campaign to further educate the public on why it is not acceptable to keep captive deer.
    - (a) The Department will refine the current policy statements.
    - (b) Staff members were assigned to review the current policy and submit recommended changes to Secretary Franks and his leadership team.
    - (c) At the next meeting, Director Paul Peditto will outline the Department's progress to the Wildlife Advisory Commission (WAC) for input.
  - 4) Commissioner Pascal and Lamp discussed the value of having alternative methods to address illegal captive deer farms in Maryland.
    - (a) This discussion was tabled until the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Chairman Dollar agreed to research this further and share information at the November meeting.
    - (b) Staff members will provide Commissioners with information on CWD and a list of current deer permittees by name only.
- The Game Program presented a Power Point Presentation on bears, deer, deer and turkey check-in, furbearers, and game birds. A printed version of the power point presentation [Attachment B] will be mailed to the Commissioners.
  - 1) Staff members and Stakeholders had a lengthy discussion on the Waterfowl Outfitter Regulations Proposals; specifically, the possession limit while guiding. WHS agreed to modify the original language to allow outfitters/guides a two-bird possession limit during the second split of the AP Canada Goose Season.

- 2) Commissioner Pascal disagreed with the language allowing the Waterfowl Outfitters two-bird possession limit while guiding. Commissioner Pascal is concerned about the outfitters taking more than their bag limit. Chairman Dollar concurred that the bag limit should be reduced from two-bird possession limit to one-bird possession limit for outfitters/guides while guiding.
- **Motion:** Chairman Dollar motion to amend the Waterfowl Outfitters Regulations Proposal to only allow 1 bird per outfitter/guide during both splits. Commissioner Adams seconded motion. Commissioners were all in favor of the motion. Motion was carried.

#### **Wild Turkey Advisory Committee Update**

- Presentation by James Gilford, Committee Chairman and Bob Long, Upland Game Bird Project Leader
- Committee Chairman Gilford passed out the Wild Turkey in Maryland, History – Biology Management booklet [Attachment C].
  - 1) The Wild Turkey Advisory Committee is compiled of 12-volunteers.
    - (a) No terms are outlined; the WHS Director selects members.
    - (b) These members are committed to conservation and management of wild turkeys in Maryland.
  - 2) The Wild Turkey Advisory Committee will meet in November. At this meeting, there will be discussion on allowance of electric calls.
- Bob Long, Upland Game Bird Project Leader handed out 2004 Maryland Wild Turkey Observation Survey Summary [Attachment D].
  - 1) Staff members released 30 birds in the Harford County area this past year. The plan is to release more birds in the Baltimore and St. Mary's county area.
  - 2) Maryland has had a dropped in reproduction for the last two years. Raccoons, skunks, and opossum are nesting predators. Staff members are developing a wild turkey habitat publication for landowners who are interested in wild turkey habitat on their property.
  - 3) Captive raised turkeys are being released in the wild. Staff members are concerned about this and are continuing to monitor and limit these opportunities.

#### **Teaming With Wildlife Update**

- Presentation by Glenn Therres, Associate Director
  - 1) The current federal funding mechanism is the State Wildlife Grants. The Wildlife Diversity Conservation is annual appropriation by Congress.
    - (a) The original proposal was \$80 million dollars nationally for State Wildlife Grants.
    - (b) The Senate approved \$75 million.
    - (c) The House of Representatives approved \$67 million; the difference will be resolved after Election Day.
  - 2) Assistant Secretary Mike Slattery, Director Paul Peditto, and Associate Director Glenn Therres are developing guidelines for the Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee (WDAC). WDAC will report to the WAC.
    - (a) The WDAC will tackle items of interest/issues from MD Teaming with Wildlife Coalition.
    - (b) The WDAC will have three categories with a total of twelve members on the committee:
      - (i) Conservationists
      - (ii) Recreational Groups
      - (iii) Wildlife Education
      - (iv) Wildlife Science
    - (c) Commissioners will inform Mr. Glenn Therres of the candidates for the WDACS.

#### **Wildlife Heritage Fund Update**

- Presentation by Commissioner Lowell Adams
  - 1) Commissioners have adopted the general concept of a scratch off lottery ticket method for Maryland.
  - 2) Commissioner Julio sent an email to the Commissioners with comments addressing the concerns of the possibility of a reduction in general funds as it relates to demographic data.
  - 3) The next steps are as follows:
    - (a) Remain in contact with Maine.
      - (i) Research the background on length of time, obstacles, and Maine's resolutions.
      - (ii) Recommend informal updates to the Commission.
      - (iii) Demographic data needs to be collected to contend the argument that this special lottery will not reduce the current general funds; on the contrary, it will target different demographic constituents.
    - (b) Commissioners will continue to maintain this idea.

**State Forest & Park Service Update**

- No Report

**Natural Resources Police Update**

- Presentation by Sergeant Randy Charron
- Sergeant Charron provided summary of NRP activity from August 19, 2004 through October 19, 2004 [Attachment E].

**Maryland Farm Bureau Update**

- Presentation by Kurt Fuchs
  - 1) Mr. Fuchs thanked DNR staff for their work at getting the black bear hunt approved. Efforts to pair-up landowners with hunters were successful.
  - 2) Mr. Fuchs contacted Mr. Larry Hindman regarding goose damage permits issued by USFWS. Work has been done to create a fast track system for expediting issuance of goose damage permits. Mr. Bill Harvey will follow-up on the progress on the fast track system.

**Old Business**

- Commissioner Pascal mentioned that new members have been elected to serve on the Wildlife Advisory Commission.
- Commissioner Adams handed out Operational Guidelines for the Urban Subcommittee of the Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission [Attachment F]. The WAC adopted the operational guidelines on July 21, 2004.

**New Business**

- No Report

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

**Attendance**

Members:	L. Adams, C. Dollar, G. Fratz, R. Gregory, L. Julio, J. Lamp, R. Pascal
Guests:	K. Fuchs, J. Gilford
Staff:	B. Beyer, S. Bittner, K. Blizzard, R. Charron, B. Eyler, B. Harvey, M. Hoffman, D. Hotton, P. Jayne, B. King, B. Long, H. Lynch, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, G. Therres
Absent:	M. Scarborough, C. Garner